

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application and claims 7-12 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 are amended and claims 13 and 14 are added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In particular claim 3 is written in independent form.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Meislin in the June 5 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3 and 5 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. As discussed during the June 5 personal interview, claims 1-3 are amended to obviate the rejection.

Furthermore, the passage of claim 2 recited in the Office Action as not being understood may be clarified by referring to Fig. 1 and paragraph [0063].

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,257,561 to Folta; and rejects claims 1, 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,023,407 to Vanderzee. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 6 recite, *inter alia*, "the fastening means of the one-side rim section and the fastening means of the other-side rim section constitute a bayonet type fastening means for fastening the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section with

each other." Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0049].

As discussed during the June 5 personal interview, Folta and Vanderzee fail to teach or disclose that the fastening means of the one-side rim section and the fastening means of the other-side rim section constitute a bayonet type fastening means for fastening the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section with each other. Accordingly, Folta and Vanderzee fail to teach or disclose the recited features of independent claims 1 and 6.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 6 and the claims dependent therefrom are patentable over the applied references. Withdrawal of the rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as co-pending Application No. 10/504,574 (statutory-type double patenting) rejection. Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Claims 13 and 14

Claims 13 and 14 are added. Support for claims 13 and 14 can be found in the specification at, for example, Fig. 1 and paragraph[0062] (claim 13) and claim 13, Fig. 1 and paragraph [0062] (claim 14), respectively.

Independent claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, "the fastening means of the one-side rim section and the fastening means of the other-side rim section constitute a bayonet type fastening means for fastening the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section with each other." The applied references do not disclose or suggest these features.

Folta and Vanderzee fail to teach or disclose that the fastening means of the one-side rim section and the fastening means of the other-side rim section constitute a bayonet type

fastening means for fastening the one-side rim section and the other-side rim section with each other. Accordingly, the applied references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the recited features of claim 13.

Claim 14 is patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 13 because it contains all of the features of claim 13 as well as for the additional features it recites.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Obert H. Chu
Registration No. 52,744

JAO:OHC/mdw

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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